

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E. O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, IT  
SUBJECT: CGIL'S AUTONOMOUS DOCKWORKERS ENGAGED IN HEATED  
ELECTION CAMPAIGN

REF: (A) 77 GENOA 0543; (B) 77 GENOA 0479

SUMMARY: THE CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS OF GENOA'S  
LARGEST DOCKWORKERS UNION, THE COMPAGNIA UNICA MERCIA LAVORATORI  
VARIE (CULMV), CONTROLLED BY THE COMMUNIST (PCI) - DOMINATED  
FILP-CGIL, IS ATTRACTING UNUSUAL LOCAL INTEREST. FOR THE  
FIRST TIME, A DISSIDENT SLATE, RUNNING UNDER THE BANNER OF THE  
COLLETTIVO OPERAIO PORTUALE (PORT WORKERS COLLECTIVE), IS  
CHALLENGING THE ORTHODOX CGIL CANDIDATES. SINCE THE COLLETTIVO  
WON SEVERAL VICTORIES LAST FALL ON "BREAD AND BUTTER" ISSUES  
AND ITS STRENGTH APPEARS TO BE GROWING, THE CGIL LEADERSHIP  
IS NOT TAKING THIS NEW OPPOSITION GROUP LIGHTLY THIS TIME.  
END SUMMARY

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1. THE STAKES IN THE CULMV'S ELECTION, TO BE HELD MAY 10,  
ARE QUITE HIGH. THE CULMV EMPLOYS MORE THAN 6,000 WORKERS  
AND HAS TRADITIONALLY FORMED THE CORE FOUNDATION OF  
COMMUNIST STRENGTH IN GENOA. IN CONTRAST, THE COLLETTIVO  
IS A RECENT PHENOMENON, THE CREATURE OF A HANDFUL OF "DISCONTENTS"  
WHO OPPOSE THE CGIL'S AUTHORITARIAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CULMV.  
LAST FALL, THE COLLETTIVO'S OBJECTIVES APPEALED TO A CROSS

SECTION OF DOCKWORKERS OPPOSED TO CULMV'S EFFORTS TO REORGANIZE PORT SERVICES UNDER THE DUAL, "BINOMIO", ROL OF CULMV AND THE PORT AUTHORITY (CAP). THE COLLECTIVO PREFERRED THAT ALL PORT SERVICES BE MANAGED BY THE CAP. THREE TIMES THE COLLECTIVO DEFEATED THE CGIL PROPOSALS ON REORGANIZATION. AFTER MUCH ARM TWISTING, HOWEVER, THE CGIL'S PROPOSAL PREVAILED AND THE LONG-DELAYED REORGANIZATION IS NOW SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON JULY 1 (REFTELS). THE CGIL CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE CONTROL OF CULMV TO THE "AUTONOMI" ON THE EVE OF THIS IMPORTANT MOVE TO REALIGN GENOA'S PORT LABOR PRACTICES. A COLLECTIVO VICTORY WOULD SPELL DOOM FOR THE CULMV AND SEVERELY DAMAGE THE PCI AND CGIL.

2. THE PCI AND THE CGIL ARE WAGING A VIGOROUS POLEMICAL CAMPAIGN TO DAMAGE THE COLLECTIVO'S ELECTION PROSPECTS. THROUGH ITS DAILY NEWSPAPER, L'UNITA, THE PCI HAS CONTINUOUSLY EXPLOITED THE COLLECTIVO'S SOFT STANCE ON TERRORISM AND HAS BRANDED THEM AS SYMPATHIZERS OF THE RED BRIGADES CAUSE. THE SOURCE OF THE PCI CONCERN AND PROPAGANDA IS A COLLECTIVO LEAFLET PROCLAIMING NEUTRALITY BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE TERRORISTS THAT HAS BEEN WIDELY DISTRIBUTED AND DISCUSSED AMONG THE DOCKWORKERS.

3. THE ALLEDGED EXPULSION OF SIX COLLECTIVO LEADERS FROM THE PCI IS A WARNING OF THE LENGTHS TO WHICH THE PARTY IS PREPARED TO GO IN ISOLATING AND PUNISHING THE DISSIDENTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALTHOUGH THE SIX "EXPELLEES" CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD RESIGNED, THEY CONFIRMED THAT THE PARTY HAD GIVEN THEM AN ULTIMATUM EITHER TO RESIGN OR DROP THEIR COLLECTIVO ACTIVITIES. WHETHER THE PCI INTENDS TO PURGE OTHER COLLECTIVO ACTIVISTS FROM ITS RANKS IS NOT CLEAR. THE PARTY IS HOPEFUL THAT ITS STRONG ACTION WILL FORCE THE WAVERING ADHERENTS TO TOE THE LINE COME VOTING TIME. ALTHOUGH SOME LOCAL SOCIALIST (PSI) LEADERS HAVE GIVEN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE COLLECTIVO, CULMV SOCIALIST CANDIDATES ON THE CGIL SLATE HAVE APPEALED TO THEIR COLLEAGUES IN THE COLLECTIVO TO RETURN TO THE FOLD.

4. THE PCI AND THE COLLECTIVO ARE ALSO ENGAGING IN HARSH WORDS OVER THEIR RELATIVE ABILITY TO MOBILIZE DOCKWORKERS' SUPPORT FOR THE NECESSARY REFORMS TO IMPROVE THE PORT'S INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS. LOVIANO BISSO, PCI PROVINCIAL SECRETARY FOR GENOA, NOTED THAT THE COLLECTIVO'S INEXPERIENCE AND GENERALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON WORK RULE CHANGES, PROPOSED BY THE CAP, CONDEMNS THE PORT TO A CONTINUED LOSS OF TRAFFIC. (THE COLLECTIVO MADE SIMILAR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE CULMV LEADERSHIP LAST YEAR.) BISSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE PCI WOULD SUPPORT CAP'S EFFORTS TO INSTITUTE A NUMBER OF WORK RULE CHANGES BY DECREE AND

CHALLENGED THE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES AND LABOR  
ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN THE PCI IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSALS.  
THUS FAR, ONLY THE CGIL HAS ENDORSED BISSO'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

COMMENT: THE CGIL'S GRIP OVER THE CULMV HAS SLIPPED SO BADLY  
THAT CAP PRESIDENT, PROF. GIUSEPPE DAGNINO, THREATENED TO  
APPOINT A "COMMISSIONER" TO WATCH OVER CULMV UNTIL THE  
ELECTION. THE PCI REJECTED DAGNINO'S DRASTIC MOVE. REGARDLESS  
OF THE OUTCOME OF THIS HEATED ELECTION, NOTH THE PCI AND CGIL  
ARE EMERGING WITH THEIR IMAGES TARNISHED AND THEIR RANKS  
THINNED BY INCREASING DEFECTIONS. DISCIULLO

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